READ—

The following Proceedings of the Government of Madras, publishing revised rules for the sale of quinine at Post offices:—

No. 610, REVENUE, 2ND JULY 1906.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

I

G. O., No. 1387, Revenue, dated 20th December 1904.

ABSTRACT.—Introducing the system of sale of quinine in 7-grain pice powders from 1st February 1905.

II

Letter—from W. M. STANDEN, Esq., Director of Government Cinchona Plantations, the Nilgiris.
To—the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Dated—Ootacamund, the 14th May 1906.
No.—26.

With reference to the rules for the sale of quinine at Post offices, sanctioned by Government in G. O. No. 1387, Revenue, dated 20th December 1904, I have the honour to enclose a copy of a letter from the Postmaster-General, Madras, bringing to notice that the stock of quinine held by Postmasters of small offices is unduly large, and suggesting that the number of packets held as a permanent advance at branch offices should be reduced from 7 to 3.

2. I agree with the Postmaster-General's views, and enclose for the approval of Government a revised set of rules, drawn up by the Postmaster-General, embodying the above suggestion.

ENCLOSURES.

Letter—from the Superintendent of Post offices, Trichinopoly division.
To—the Postmaster-General, Madras.
Dated—the 20th January 1906.
No- 2769.

I have the honour to state that it seems to me that the stock of quinine that is now allowed to remain in Post offices is much too large. It may be necessary to keep such a large stock in malarious districts, but in Trichinopoly and Salem districts, there is absolutely no need to keep so much. On the average only about half a dozen powders are sold by a sub-office in this division in a month, and the number sold by a branch office during the same period is only one or two. The powders that remain in stock are not as carefully kept, as they ought to be, and especially in extra departmental branch offices where all the records have to be crammed in a small box, the quinine powders get crushed and damaged. The stock that is now kept (*viz.*, 714 powders) would probably be sufficient to meet the demands in an average extra departmental branch office for 15 years, and it seems to me that it would be desirable to reduce the stock at least in extra departmental branch offices to 306 powders (three packets).

Letter—from the Postmaster-General, Madras.
To—the Director of Government Cinchona Plantations, the Nilgiris.
Dated—the 12th April 1906.
No.—M. 818-45.

In forwarding herewith copy of a communication No. 2769, dated the 20th January 1906, from the Superintendent of Post offices, Trichinopoly division, to my address, I have the honour to say that the stock of quinine held by Post offices at present are much too large, and that I quite agree in thinking that three packets is an ample stock for small offices. Further, there is danger of the drug losing all its efficacy if retained for more than a year exposed to the atmosphere. In these circumstances I beg to enquire whether you have any objection to the present stock of quinine being reduced from seven to three packets, in all the branch offices, except those in the Shimoga division.